



LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

November 9, 2021

The Honorable Ben Cardin
United States Senate
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
United States Senate
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Cardin and Van Hollen:

As we approach Veterans Day, I was surprised and disappointed to learn that you have chosen not to co-sponsor important bipartisan legislation to authorize the construction of a Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) Memorial on the National Mall.

Since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, more than 7,000 U.S. service members—including 126 Marylanders—have died in military operations in the Global War on Terror. The recent withdrawal from Afghanistan, along with the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, have heightened Americans' recognition of the ultimate sacrifice that these men and women have made throughout the longest war in our history. A memorial on the National Mall would give the families of the fallen a place to mourn and remember, and it would give current and future generations an opportunity to reflect on the true cost of freedom.

Despite all the gridlock in Washington, the U.S. House of Representatives recently passed the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act. It has the strong support of the six surviving secretaries of defense—including all four who served in the Obama administration—as well as the Wounded Warrior Project, Gold Star Families, and a number of veterans organizations. More than half of the Senate, including more than a dozen Democrats, has now signed on to S.535, Sen. Joni Ernst's companion legislation. Supporting this measure is the least we can do to pay tribute to those who have sacrificed so much for our nation.

As commander-in-chief of the Maryland National Guard, I have seen off countless citizen soldiers headed to Iraq and Afghanistan. I have also mourned with the families of Marylanders killed in action. On behalf of all Marylanders, I ask you to join us in honoring the veterans of America's longest war by supporting the Global War on Terrorism Memorial.

Sincerely,

Larry Hogan
Governor